AUG 5 1943

Dear Cordell:

The President has asked me to prepare a reply to the attached letter addressed to him by Stephen Wise of the American Jewish Congress, relating to the proposal of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Congress for the evacuation of thousands of Jewish refugees from Rumania.

Randolph Paul, who acts for me on all matters relating to Foreign Funds Control, tells me that your Department was informally advised on July 16 that the Treasury was prepared to take the necessary action to implement this proposal. On July 31 we so advised the American Jewish Congress. I understand, however, that your Department has not yet reached a decision with respect to this matter.

The immediate question is the nature of the reply which the President should make to the above mentioned letter. If your Department desires to consider this matter further, we could so advise the President and suggest that he advise the American Jewish Congress that the proposal is under active consideration by the State and Treasury Departments and that the American Jewish Congress will be advised with respect thereto as soon as possible. On the other hand, if your Department is prepared to approve the proposal, we could then put the President in the position where he could give the American Jewish Congress a definitive reply to the effect that the State and Treasury Departments are fully sympathetic to the proposal.

Not met